

Message Text

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R 041448Z AUG 78

FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5169
INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK
AMEMBASSY CANBERRA
AMCONSUL HONG KONG
CINCPAC HONOLULU HI
AMEMBASSY JAKARTA
AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MANILA
AMEMBASSY PARIS
USLO PEKING
AMEMBASSY SEOUL
AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE
AMEMBASSY TAIPEI
AMEMBASSY TOKYO
USMISSION USNATO
AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

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CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1
TAGS: JA, UR, ASEAN, PEPR
SUBJECT: SOVIET MFA OFFICER DISCUSSES JAPAN

REF: MOSCOW 18017

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SUMMARY: COMMENTS BY SOVIET MFA JAPANESE SPECIALIST,
LIKE SOVIET PRESS RECENTLY, INDICATES SOVIETS
ATTEMPTING TO REFLECT LOWER KEY POSTURE TOWARD
RESUMPTION SINO-JAPANESE PFT NEGOTIATIONS. MFA
OFFICIAL ALSO STATES POLITICAL STABILITY IN EAST ASIA
AND POSSIBILITY OF U.S. PARTICIPATION ARE IMPORTANT
FACTORS IN JAPANESE CONSIDERATION OF SIBERIAN

INVESTMENT PROJECTS; DESCRIBES POSSIBILITY OF JAPANESE "REMILITARIZATION" IN LONG RUN; AND PLEADS LACK OF INFORMATION ON KIM IL-SONG VISIT TO MOSCOW.
END SUMMARY.

1. EMBOFF CALLED ON FIRST SECRETARY MFA SECOND FAR EAST DEPARTMENT (JAPAN) ABDURAZAKOV AUGUST 2. ABDURAZAKOV, A KAZAKHI, SPEAKS JAPANESE AND SERVED TEN YEARS IN JAPAN.

2. SINO-JAPANESE PFT NEGOTIATIONS: ABDURAZAKOV DECLINED TO SPECULATE ON PROSPECTS FOR THE TALKS. HE REPEATED STANDARD SOVIET STATEMENTS THAT MOSCOW OPPOSES ONLY THE "ANTI-SOVIET" ASPECTS OF THE TREATY, THAT TOKYO'S ACQUIESCEANCE TO PRC TERMS WOULD BE "VERY DANGEROUS," AND THAT JAPAN COULD NOT EXPECT "NORMAL" RELATIONS WITH THE USSR IF IT ACCEPTED THESE TERMS. ABDURAZAKOV AVOIDED ANSWERING DIRECT QUESTIONS ON WHETHER THE USSR WOULD BE WILLING TO ACCEPT A PFT IF THE ANTI-HEGEMONY CLAUSE WERE TO BE DROPPED OR WATERED DOWN SO AS NOT TO APPEAR DIRECTED AGAINST THE SOVIET UNION. (ABDURAZAKOV'S REFUSAL TO RESPOND TO THESE QUESTIONS COULD INDICATE POSSIBLE SOVIET OBJECTION TO THE PFT GENERALLY AS A VEHICLE THAT, WITH OR WITHOUT THE ANTI-HEGEMONY CLAUSE, WOULD SERVE TO STRENGTHEN PROSPECTS FOR
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CLOSER SINO-JAPANESE ECONOMIC-POLITICAL TIES, AND INDIRECTLY ASSIST SINO-JAPANESE-U.S. COOPERATION.) LIKE THE SOVIET PRESS RECENTLY, ABDURAZAKOV TREATED THE RESUMPTION OF THE SINO-JAPANESE TALKS IN A LOW KEY MANNER WHICH MAY HAVE BEEN BASED ON A DEGREE OF CONFIDENCE THAT THE JAPANESE WILL NOT AGREE TO CHINESE TERMS AND THE NEGOTIATIONS WILL BE SUSPENDED AGAIN.

3. IN A RELATED BUT SEPARATE CONVERSATION, JAPANESE EMBOFF HERE TOLD US AUG. 2 THAT HIS EMBASSY BELIEVES THAT THE SOVIET PRESS IS "CALMLY" FOLLOWING COURSE OF PFT NEGOTIATIONS. THIS SOURCE ALSO COMMENTED THAT:

-- LAST MONTH TOKYO INSTRUCTED JAPANESE AMBASSADOR HERE TO POSTPONE HIS PLANNED LATE JULY DEPARTURE FROM MOSCOW. ACCORDING TO SOURCE, TOKYO SAW POSSIBILITY THAT SOVIETS COULD BECOME "EXCITED" OVER RESUMPTION OF PFT TALKS AND WANTED AMBASSADOR TO REMAIN TO QUIET SOVIET CONCERNS. SINCE SOVIETS HAVE NOT OVER-REACTIONED, AMBASSADOR WILL DEPART MOSCOW ON AUGUST 11.

-- PAST JAPANESE ASSURANCES TO SOVIETS, INCLUDING
THOSE MADE BY SONODA DURING HIS MOSCOW VISIT, MAY

HAVE INFLUENCED THE SOVIET CAUTION IN REACTING TO
RESUMPTION OF PFT NEGOTIATIONS.

-- PFT TALKS WERE "DRAGGING ON." A SONODA VISIT TO
PEKING DURING THE TALKS WOULD SIGNIFY SUBSTANTIAL
PROGRESS OR EVEN NEAR-AGREEMENT, HE THOUGHT. HE

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ADDED, HOWEVER, THAT TOKYO HAS PROVIDED THE EMBASSY
WITH MINIMAL INFORMATION ON COURSE OF THE NEGOTIATIONS.

4. SOVIET-JAPANESE ECONOMIC COOPERATION:

ABDURAZAKOV REPEATED STANDARD SOVIET PRESENTATION
ON MOSCOW'S READINESS TO COOPERATE WITH JAPANESE
FIRMS IN SIBERIA. HE STRESSED THE IMPORTANCE OF
POLITICAL STABILITY IN EAST ASIA AS A FACTOR IN
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INFLUENCING JAPANESE WILLINGNESS TO INVEST. HE ALSO
OBSERVED THAT U.S. DECISIONS TO COOPERATE IN JOINT
VENTURES WILL INFLUENCE JAPANESE DECISIONS ON SIBERIAN
INVESTMENT.

5. AMBASSADOR POLYANSKIY'S "CONSULTATIONS" IN THE
SOVIET UNION: ABDURAZAKOV DISMISSED AS "RUMORS"
SPECULATION IN MOSCOW'S DIPLOMATIC CIRCUIT THAT
POLYANSKIY'S RETURN WAS MEANT TO PORTRAY SOVIET
UNHAPPINESS AT THE RESUMPTION OF THE PFT NEGOTIA-
TIONS. IN ESCORTING EMBOFF TO HIS CAR, NOTE-TAKER
ATTEMPTED TO REBUT SPECULATION BY REMARKING THAT
POLYANSKIY HAD RETURNED FOR CONSULTATIONS IN VARIOUS
MINISTRIES ON PURELY "TECHNICAL" MATTERS.

6. JAPANESE SOURCE QUOTED ABOVE SAID HE HEARD FROM
VISITING PRO-SOVIET JAPANESE PARLIAMENTARIAN THAT
SOME SOVIET POLICY-MAKERS IN MOSCOW ARE CHARGING
THAT POLYANSKIY HAS BEEN TOO INACTIVE IN TOKYO
AND THAT HE MAY HAVE BEEN CALLED BACK FOR THIS REASON.

7. SOVIET PRESS ON JAPANESE "MILITARIZATION":
IN RESPONSE TO A QUESTION ON THIS TOPIC, ABDURAZAKOV
EXPRESSED CONCERN THAT THE JAPANESE GOVERNMENT COULD
MOVE SLOWLY TOWARD INCREASED MILITARY ASSERTIVENESS.
THIS WOULD NOT NECESSARILY OCCUR IN THE SHORT RUN,
HE EMPHASIZED. HOWEVER, HE PREDICTED, AS THE POST-
WAR GENERATION COMES TO THE FORE IN JAPAN, THEY MAY
REJECT THE CONSTRAINTS ON REMILITARIZATION IMPOSED

BY THEIR ELDERS. THE RESULT COULD BE GRADUAL
MODIFICATION OF THE CONSTITUTION TO ALLOW JAPAN
TO REARM. A FIRST STEP COULD BE CHANGES TO PERMIT
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JAPAN TO SELL ARMS ABROAD, FOR INSTANCE, TO SOUTH-
EAST ASIAN STATES, IN ORDER TO INCREASE JAPANESE
POLITICAL INFLUENCE IN THIS AREA ECONOMICALLY
IMPORTANT TO JAPAN. JAPANESE INVESTMENT ALREADY
EXCEEDS U.S. INVESTMENT IN ALL ASEAN COUNTRIES

EXCEPT FOR THE PHILIPPINES, HE SAID. (SEPTEL
REPORTS ADDITIONAL COMMENTS BY ABDURAZAKOV ON
ASEAN-JAPANESE RELATIONS.)

8. JAPANESE INTERNAL POLITICS: ABDURAZAKOV WAS
GENERALLY NON-COMMITTAL AND CAUTIOUS. HE COMMENTED
THAT FUKUDA'S PROSPECTS FOR WINNING THE DECEMBER
LDP ELECTIONS WOULD BE SIGNIFICANTLY ENHANCED IF
JAPAN REGISTERS A SEVEN PERCENT GROWTH RATE. HE
ALSO REMARKED THAT THE HUGE JAPANESE TRADE IMBALANCE
WITH THE WEST IS LIKELY TO REMAIN EVEN IF REDUCED
SINCE FUNDAMENTAL CHANGES IN THE JAPANESE ECONOMIC
"STRUCTURE" WILL BE NECESSARY TO ESTABLISH A BALANCE.

9. KIM IL-SONG VISIT TO MOSCOW: DESPITE PERSISTENT
QUESTIONING, ABDURAZAKOV REFUSED TO COMMENT ON
WHETHER KIM WILL VISIT MOSCOW THIS YEAR. PLEADING
LACK OF INFORMATION, HE MERELY NOTED THAT SOVIET-
DPRK RELATIONS ARE "NORMAL AND GOOD" AND THAT KIM
WOULD BE "WELCOME" IN MOSCOW IF HE WERE TO COME.
IN AN APPARENT REFERENCE TO PYONGYANG'S "CULT OF
PERSONALITY" AROUND KIM IL-SONG,
HE JOKED THAT KIM IS SUCH A "GREAT MAN" THAT HE
DOES NOT TRAVEL MUCH ABROAD. (MOSCOW 10784 REPORTS
NORTH KOREAN DIPLOMATS COMMENT LAST MAY THAT
KIM WILL VISIT MOSCOW TOWARD THE END OF 1978.
ABDURAZAKOV'S REFUSAL TO CONFIRM THE VISIT COULD
INDICATE SOVIETS MAY BE CONSIDERING POST-PONING

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OR EVEN CANCELLING IT, PER ROK OFFICIAL'S COMMENTS
SEOUL 6670. WE WILL BE CHECKING THIS POSSIBILITY
OUT FURTHER WITH OTHER SOVIET CONTACTS.) TOON

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